

COHERENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AMONG ISKANDAR MALAYSIA'S SELECTED BLUEPRINTS

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ABSTRACT

A significant increase in number of International, national, regional and local policies on one hand, and emergence of different policy domains, committees and sections on the other hand, has made the concept of “policy coherence” extremely important. Nations on the way to achieve their long term economic, social and environmental goals try to set the best policy scenarios. Iskandar Malaysia in this context has been defined as the second significant economic project of the country which is looking for an international standing sustainable development. For ensuring the sound development, IRDA, the related authority, has published 32 blueprints. Given the large number of blueprints and consequently policy sets on one hand and importance of environmental concerns in both international and national level, this study is going to evaluate two selected blueprints, Livable Neighborhood Design and Integrated Land use blueprints, in terms of their coherence with environmental guidelines and policies. To achieve so, the Environmental Planning Blueprint, which is a blueprint released by IRDA itself, has been considered as the basis of comparison. Taking texts as the basis of evaluation, content analysis has been applied as a main method of the study. Results coming from the analysis show that two selected blueprints are by and large consistent with the principles of EPB, although their environmental focus has been on distinct environmental features. No contradiction found between EPB and Livable Neighborhood design while some critical contradictions revealed in Integrated Land use Blueprint.

ABSTRAK

Peningkatan ketara bilangan polisi-polisi antarabangsa, negara, wilayah, tempatan serta wujudnya kepelbagaian dalam bidang-bidang, jawatankuasa dan bahagian-bahagian polisi telah menunjukkan kepentingan konsep ‘keseragaman polisi’. Kebanyakan negara cuba merangka polisi-polisi terbaik untuk menuju ke arah pencapaian ekonomi, sosial dan alam sekitar berterusan dalam jangka masa panjang. Dalam konteks ini, Iskandar Malaysia telah dikenalpasti sebagai projek ekonomi kedua terpenting di Malaysia yang memfokuskan kepada pembangunan mapan bertaraf antarabangsa. Pihak berkuasa pembangunan Iskandar Malaysia, IRDA (Iskandar Region Development Authority) telah merangka 32 ‘blueprint’ bagi memastikan pembangunan yang lestari. Kajian ini menilai dua ‘blueprint’ iaitu ‘Livable Neighborhood Design’ dan ‘Integrated Land Use’ dari segi keseragamannya dengan garis panduan dan polisi alam sekitar melalui perbandingan dengan ‘Environmental Planning Blueprint’. ‘Content analysis’ digunakan sebagai kaedah kajian dengan menilai isi kandungan teks ‘blueprint’ tersebut. Hasil kajian menunjukkan kedua-dua ‘blueprint’ yang dinilai adalah konsisten dengan prinsip-prinsip ‘Environmental Planning Blueprint’ walaupun alam sekitar difokuskan kepada ciri-ciri ketara alam sekitar, tiada percanggahan antara ‘Environmental Planning Blueprint’ dengan ‘Livable Neighborhood Design’ manakala terdapat percanggahan kritikal dengan ‘Integrated Land Use’.